

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A washing method using a washing apparatus comprising an outer casing in which a cleaning liquid is contained and a cylindrical basket-like washing tub of which a central rotating shaft is disposed in a horizontal direction in said outer casing, and wherein said cylindrical basket-like washing tub has plural protruding portions extending at an inner surface along its axial direction and protruding from said inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub towards the center of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub, said method comprising:

a step of placing a laundry article to be washed in said cylindrical basket-like washing tub ~~and tub;~~

a step of introducing said cleaning liquid into filling said casing and said cylindrical basket-like washing tub with said cleaning liquid to completely fill said basket-like washing tub with said cleaning liquid; and

a step of rotating said cylindrical basket-like washing tub, thereby washing ~~in order to wash~~ said laundry article in such manner that cleaning liquid flow moving buoyancy exerting from said inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub toward the center of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub is generated by said protruding portions accompanied by rotation of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub, thereby ~~forcing~~ causing said laundry article in said cylindrical basket-like washing tub to ~~expand~~ spread out in said cleaning liquid while keeping said laundry article out of contact with said inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

2. (currently amended) The washing method according to claim 1, wherein said protruding ~~portion has~~ portions have a wavy patterned cross section along a circumferential direction of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The washing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said step of rotating said washing tub in order to wash said laundry article, said cylindrical basket-like washing tub is rotated normally and reversely with regularity for washing.

5. (previously presented) The washing method according to claim 1, wherein said protruding portions are provided on said inner surface of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub at a constant interval along the circumferential direction of the cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The washing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said step of rotating said washing tub in order to wash said laundry article, said cylindrical basket-like washing tub is rotated intermittently.

9. (previously presented) The washing method according to claim 1, wherein, in said step for rotating said washing tub in order to wash said laundry article, said cleaning liquid in said cylindrical basket-like washing tub is controlled so as to be increased or decreased in pressure by a pressure change device.

10. (withdrawn) A washing apparatus comprising:

an outer casing in which a cleaning liquid is contained;

a cylindrical basket-like washing tub of which a central rotating shaft is disposed in its horizontal direction in said outer casing; and

plurality of protruding portions extending at an inner surface along its axial direction and

protruding from said inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub towards the center of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub;

wherein washing is performed in such manner that buoyancy exerting from said inner

surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub toward the center of said cylindrical

basket-like washing tub is generated by said protruding portions accompanied by rotation

of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub, thereby forcing said laundry article to expand

in said cleaning liquid while keeping said laundry article out of contact with said inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

11. (withdrawn) The washing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said protruding portion has a wavy patterned cross section along a circumferential direction of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

12. (withdrawn) The washing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said washing tub is rotated normally and reversely with regularity for performing washing.

13. (withdrawn) The washing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said protruding portions are provided on the inner surface of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub at a constant interval along the circumferential direction of said cylindrical basket-like washing tub.

14. (withdrawn) The washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said washing tub is rotated intermittently for performing washing.

15. (withdrawn) The washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cleaning liquid filled in said washing tub is controlled so as to be increased or decreased in pressure by a pressure change device for performing washing.